

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /145 W

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R 020916Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5206

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5070

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: DELAY IN ASSEMBLY

REF: SEOUL 5036

1. SEPCIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION HIT SNAG ON EMERGENCY MEASURES ISSUE BEFORE DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEMS COULD BEGIN. FOLLOWING OPENING CEREMONIES AUGUST 1 NDP ASSEMBLYMEN CAUCUSED AND, AT INSISTENCE KIM YONG-SAM AND DR. CHONG IL-HYONG, VOTED TO SUBMIT TO ASSEMBLY THREE BILLS DEMANDING LIFTING ALL FOUR EMERGENCY MEASURES IN PLACE OF BILL CALLING FOR REPEAL OF MEASURES 1 AND 2. SPECIAL NDP COMMITTEE DRAFTED BILLS.

2. DRP AND YUCHONGHUE TERMED THIS A BREACH OF GOVERNMENT SET CONDITION FOR HOLDING ASSEMBLY AND REFUSED TO PERMIT INTERPELLATIONS AS LONG AS NDP INSISTED ON BILLS DEALING WITH MEASURES 3 AND 4. AUGUST 2 SESSION ENDED WITHOUT RESOLVING TO CALL CABINET FOR QUESTIONING ON AUGUST 3. TIMING FOR INTERPELLATIONS IS NOW UNSURE.

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3. VICE SPEAKER YI CHOL-SUNG HAS TOLD US THAT

AFTER SHARP DEBATE NDP CAUCUS ENTRUSTED NDP FLOOR LEADER YI MIN-U WITH RENEGOTIATING AGREEMENT WITH SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON. FLOOR LEADER YI HAS BEEN TOLD TO PUSH FOR SUBMISSION OF BILLS TO REPEAL ALL MEASURES, BUT IF UNSUCCESSFUL TO AGREE TO CONSIDER MEASURES 1 AND 2 THIS SESSION AND MEASURES 3 AND 4 IN REGULAR SEPTEMBER SESSION. YI CHOL-SUNG EXPECTED LATTER COMPROMISE TO BE ACCEPTED.

4. AS BACKGROUND TO ORIGINAL NDP-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, VICE SPEAKER YI REPORTS THAT SPEAKER CHONG, WHILE MAINTAINING THAT EMERGENCY MEASURES CANNOT BE CRITICIZED EVEN ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR, INDICATED THAT IN VIEW PRESSURES FOR REAL DEBATE HE MIGHT "GO TO SLEEP" AND OVERLOOK SOME RESTRAINED CRITICISM. HOWEVER, IF OPPOSITION GETS OUT OF HAND HE WOULD TAKE MEASURES SUCH AS STOPPING DEBATE FOR A COOLING OFF PERIOD.

5. SEVERAL OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMEN HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT ALTHOUGH LITTLE IN WAY CONCRETE RESULTS CAN BE EXPECTED FROM ASSEMBLY SESSION, RECENT FOREIGN INTEREST IN ROK DOMESTIC SCENE AND PRESENCE IN SEOUL OF MANY FOREIGN REPORTERS GIVE ASSEMBLY SOME IMPORTANCE AS FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY. YI CHOL-SUNG BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY HOLDING THIS SESSION NOW IS NECESSITY FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AND NEITHER SIDE CAN BACK DOWN.

6. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS NDP ASSEMBLYMEN UNIVERSALLY MAKE POINT THAT THEIR CRITICISM OF PARK REGIME DOES NOT IMPLY DEMAND FOR U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL OR CURTAILMENT U.S. AID. ALL OF US UNEQUIVOCALLY FAVOR CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT YI CHOL SUNG TOLD DCM.
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